

SYN. NO. _____

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

March 15, 2005

Yesterday, in the San Fernando Court House, Dept. E, a deputy alternate public defender was attacked by her client. She was reportedly slashed by a razor blade that the defendant had secreted on his person and managed to bring into the courtroom, and which escaped notice by a metal detector.

This incident raises serious concerns about our courtroom security policies, especially in light of recent incidents reported elsewhere around the nation. While recognizing that the Sheriff has the obligation to balance the rights of the defendant with courtroom security needs, more stringent measures should be considered to prevent such incidents in the future and protect County personnel, Court staff, and members of the public.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT:

- 1) The Board request the Sheriff and the Court Administrator to report to this Board next week on the circumstances surrounding this incident, and
- 2) That this issue be referred to the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee for further discussion, with a report to this Board within 30 days on findings and recommendation to minimize the possibility of such an incident occurring again in the future.

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MOTION

BURKE _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____